The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Original): In a networked computing environment including a first computer system and a second computer system, a method of granting access to a piece of content on the first computer system, the method including:

sending a request from the first computer system to the second computer system, the request seeking permission to access the content;

initiating execution of an acknowledgment-monitoring process at the first computer system, the acknowledgment-monitoring process being operable to:

(a) detect a second acknowledgment from the second computer system, the second acknowledgment indicating that the second computer system received a first acknowledgment from the first computer system; and

(b) send a third acknowledgment to the second computer system if the second acknowledgment is not received by the first computer system within a predefined time period;

receiving the request at the second computer system;

determining whether to grant the request;

sending a status indicator from the second computer system to the first computer system, the status indicator including an indication that the request has been granted;

receiving the status indicator at the first computer system and releasing the content to a user;

sending the first acknowledgment from the first computer system to the second computer system, the first acknowledgment indicating that the content was successfully released to the user;

receiving the first acknowledgment at the second computer system;

sending the second acknowledgment from the second computer system to the first computer system;

receiving the second acknowledgment at the first computer system;

terminating execution of the acknowledgment-monitoring process.

2. (Original): A method as in claim 1, in which the status indicator further includes a first time value, and in which the first time value is used, at least in part, to measure the predefined time period.

3. (Original): A method as in claim 1, in which the predefined time period is measured from the initiation of execution of the acknowledgment-monitoring process.

4. (Currently Amended): A method for managing a transaction between a first computer system and a second computer system, the method including:

initiating communication between the first computer system and the second computer system, the communication including a request from the first computer system to the second computer system for authorization to execute the transaction;

initiating a failure-recovery job at the first computer system, the failure-recovery job being operable to automatically send a status signal to the second computer

system if the communication between the first computer system and the second computer system exhibits a predefined fault condition having a first definition;

receiving a signal from the second computer system;

at the second computer system, using the signal to modify ~~a definition of~~ the predefined fault condition to have a second definition such that the failure-recovery job sends the status signal when the second definition is exhibited.

5. (Original): A method as in claim 4, in which the predefined fault condition comprises the first computer system failing to receive within a predefined amount of time a response from the second computer system to a signal from the first computer system.

6. (Original): A method as in claim 4, in which the failure-recovery job is further operable to send a second status signal to the second computer system if the communication between the first computer system and the second computer system exhibits a second predefined fault condition.

7. (Original): A method as in claim 6, in which the second predefined fault condition comprises the first computer system sending said status signal to the second computer system more than a predetermined number of times without receiving a response to the status signal from the second computer system.

8. (Original): A computer program product for managing a transaction on a computer system, the computer program product including:

computer code for sending a request to access a conditionally-accessible piece of content to a remote computer system;

computer code for receiving a response from the remote computer system to the request;

computer code for sending a first acknowledgment to the response to the remote computer system;

computer code for automatically resending the first acknowledgment to the remote computer system if a second acknowledgment is not received from the remote computer system in response to the first acknowledgment and if a predefined condition is satisfied;

computer code for accepting a signal from the remote computer system and using information contained in the signal to modify the predefined condition;

a computer-readable medium for storing the computer codes.

9. (Original): A computer program product as in claim 8, in which the predefined condition comprises a predetermined amount of time elapsing from the time that the first acknowledgment was sent to the remote computer system.

10. (Original): A computer program product as in claim 8, in which the computer-readable medium is one of: CD-ROM, DVD, MINIDISC, floppy disk, tape, flash memory, RAM, ROM, system memory, hard drive, optical storage, and a data signal embodied in a carrier wave.

11-16. (Withdrawn)